

Tribes of India



- World Tribal Day or International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is observed on 9th August every year.
- It is aimed at promoting and protecting the rights of the world's indigenous population and to acknowledge the contributions that indigenous people make towards world issues such as environmental protection.
- Theme for 2021 is: "We leave no one behind: indigenous peoples and calls for a new social contract"



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What is a tribe?

- A tribe is a social division in a traditional society consisting of families linked by social, economic, religious, or blood ties, with a common culture and dialect. A tribe possesses certain qualities and characteristics that make it a unique cultural, social, and political entity.
- Tribes are also known by the name 'Adivasis' in India.

Tribes in India

- India has been described as a "melting pot" of races and tribes. India has one of the largest and diverse tribal populations in the world.
- The tribal population in India according to the 2011 census is 104 million or 8.6% of the total population.
- Madhya Pradesh has the largest population (15.3 million i.e 21%) according to number and Lakshadweep has the highest population (94.8%) compared to its total population.
- There are around 700 tribal groups in India and 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).
- The largest number of tribal communities (62) are found in Odisha.
- Smallest tribe are Andamanese only 19 members.
- There are no Scheduled Tribes in Punjab, Delhi, Chandigarh, Pondicherry, Haryana.

Constitutional Provisions:

- Article 366 (25) defined scheduled tribes as "such tribes or tribal communities or parts of or groups within such tribes or tribal communities as are deemed under Article 342 to be Scheduled Tribes for the purposes of this constitution".
- Article 342 (1)- The President may with respect to any State or Union Territory, and where it is a State, after consultation with the Governor, by a public notification, specify the tribes or tribal communities or part of or groups within tribes or tribal communities as Scheduled Tribe in relation to that State or Union Territory.
- Article 46- Promotion of educational and economic interests of scheduled castes, Scheduled tribes and other weaker sections.
- Article 335- Claims of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to services and posts.
- As per Article 338-A of the Constitution of India, the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes has been set-up.
- 5th and 6th Schedule- Administration and control of Scheduled and Tribal Areas.

- The Fifth Schedule of the Constitution deals with the administration and control of scheduled areas and scheduled tribes in many states except the four states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
- While the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution deals with the administration of the tribal areas in the four northeastern states of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

Sixth Schedule

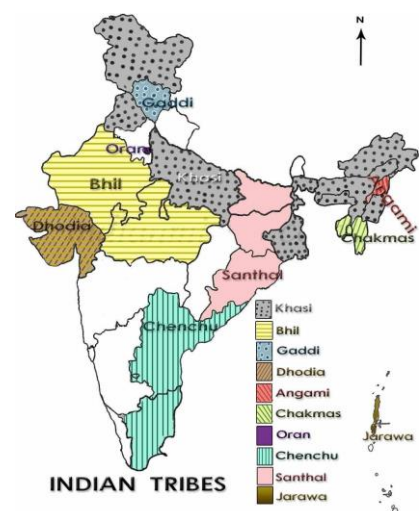
1. Assam
2. Meghalaya
3. Tripura
4. Mizoram

- Among the tribal groups, several have adapted to modern life but there are tribal groups who are more vulnerable. The Dhebar Commission (1973) created a separate category “Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs)” which was renamed in 2006 as “Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)”
- In 1975, the Indian Government declared 52 tribal groups as PVTGs
- In 1993, 23 groups were added to the list.
- Hence, there are 75 PVTGs out of 705 Scheduled Tribes
- Odisha has the highest number of PVTGs. In 2020, the Odisha government further identified 888 villages/hamlets inhabited by PVTGs
- The government of India follows the following criteria for the identification of PVTGs.
 - Pre-agricultural level of technology
 - Low level of literacy
 - Economic backwardness
 - A declining or stagnant population.
 - Accordingly, 75 PVTGs have been identified in the country.

Legal Provisions

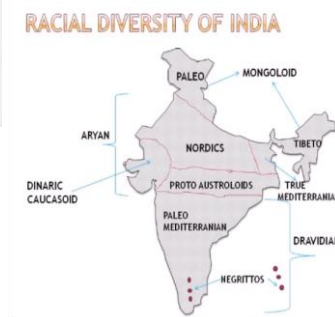
- Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 protects rights against Untouchability.
- Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 prevents the commission of offences of atrocities against the people of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.
- Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 provides for the extension of the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution to the Panchayats to the Scheduled Areas.
- Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 recognizes the rights of scheduled tribes and other forest dwellers.

Most Famous Tribal Groups



Racial Groups of India

- The present population of the Indian subcontinent has been divided into four racial groups- the Negritos, the Proto-Australoids, the Mongoloids, and the Mediterraneans.
- The Negritos**-Perhaps they were the first of the racial groups that came to India. **They got settled in the hilly areas of Kerala and the Andaman Islands.** Kadar, Irula and Puliyan tribes of Kerala resemble to a great extent with the Negritos. They are related to Africa, Australia and their neighbouring islands. The Negritos have black (dark) skin, woolly hair, broad and flat nose and slightly protruded jaws.



The Proto-Australoids-Perhaps the people belonging to the Proto-Australoid race came here just after the Negritos. Their sources are Australian aborigines. They are settled in the central India from **the Rajmahal hills to the Aravalis.** **Santhal, Bhil, Gond, Munda, Oraon etc. tribes are related to this group.** They are physically different from the Negritos in many ways, e.g. their hair is coarse and straight instead of being woolly. **It is considered that they were the people who, in collaboration with the Mediterranean race, had developed the Indus Valley Civilization.** Their skeletons have been found in the excavations of Mohenjodaro and Harappa.

The Mongoloids-The original homeland of this race was Mongolia (China). The Mongoloids came to India through the passes of northern and eastern mountain ranges. These people are concentrated in the nearby areas of the Himalayas, e.g. **Ladakh, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and other areas of the north-eastern India.**

A. **Paleo-Mongoloids**- They were the first of the Mongoloids who came to India. These people are settled mainly in the border areas of the Himalayas. They are found mostly in Assam and the adjacent states.

B. **Tibeto-Mongoloids**- These people came from Tibet and are settled mainly in Bhutan, Sikkim, areas of north-western Himalayas and beyond the Himalayas in which Ladakh and Baltistan are included.

The Mediterraneans- They came to India from the south-west Asia. They may be divided into three groups-

A. **Paleo-Mediterraneans**- They were the first of the Mediterranean's race that came to India. They were of medium height, black skin, well- built body and long head. **Perhaps they were the people who had begun cultivation for the first time in the north-west India.**

B. **Mediterranean's**- They came to India later on. They developed the Indus valley civilization in collaboration with the Proto-Australoids and initiated **the bronze culture for the first time during 2500-1500 BC.** Later on, the new invading group coming from north-west pushed them from the Indus valley to the Ganga valley and towards the south of the Vindhyas. Today, most of the population of lower castes in the north India belongs to this race.

C. **Oriental-Mediterranean's**- They came to India very late. They are populated mostly in the north-western border areas of Pakistan and Punjab. They are also found in sufficient number in Sindh (Pakistan), Rajasthan and western Uttar Pradesh.

Bhils Tribe

- Bhils or Bheels are an Adivasi ethnic group in West India. They speak the Bhil languages, a subgroup of the Western Zone of the Indo-Aryan languages. **As of 2013, Bhils were the largest tribal group in India**
- The Bhil are one of the largest tribal groups, living in Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan.
- The name is derived from the word 'billu', which means bow.
- The Bhil are known to be excellent archers coupled with deep knowledge about their local geography.
- Traditionally, experts in guerrilla warfare, most of them today are farmers and agricultural labourers.



- Bhils have rich and unique culture. The Bhilala sub-division is known for its **Pithora painting**. **Ghoomar** is a traditional folk dance of Bhil tribe. Ghoomar is the symbol of womanhood. Young girls take part in this dance and declare that they are stepping into the shoes of women.
- Their celebrations are the Ghoomar dance, **Bhagoria Mela during Holi**, Than Gair-a dance drama, and the Baneshwar Fair during Shivaratri.
- Bhuri Bai was the first Bhil artist to paint using readymade colours and paper.** Other known Bhil artists include Lado Bai, Sher Singh, Ram Singh and Dubu Bariya

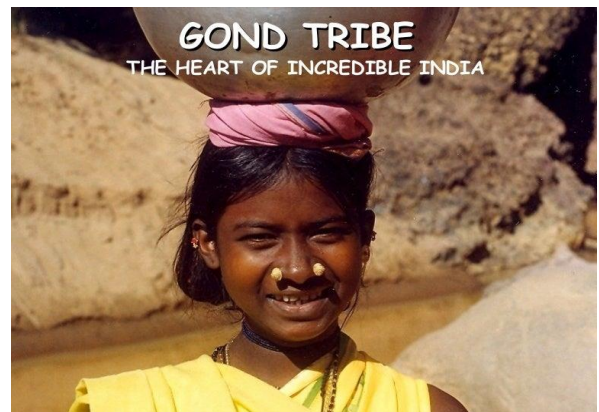
Indore's Railway Station renamed after Tribal Icon Tantya Bhil

- Indore's Patalpani railway station after tribal icon Tantya Bhil, who was well known as 'Indian Robin Hood' by the tribals. CM also announced that 2 other landmarks, the Bhanwar Kuan intersection, and MR 10 bus stand, in Indore will also be named after Tantya Bhil.
- active in India between 1878 and 1889.



Gonds Tribe

- The Gondi or Gond or Koitur are a Dravidian ethnolinguistic group. They are one of the largest groups in India. They are spread over the states of **Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Odisha.**
- Dravidian Gondi language.
- They have houses of mud walls and thatched roofs in the Gondi forests.
- Agriculture is their main occupation.
- Keslapur Jathra and Madai are their festivals.



Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Great Andamanese

Jarawas

Onges

Sentinelese

Shompens



Jarawa Tribe

- The Jarawas are an indigenous people of the Andaman Islands in India.
- They live in parts of South Andaman and Middle Andaman Islands.
- From the 1970s, the controversial Great Andaman Trunk Road was built through their western forest homeland. As result, contacts between the Jarawas and outsiders began to increase, resulting in occasional trading but also the outbreak of diseases.
- On 21 January 2013 a Bench of Justices G.S. Singhvi and H.L. Gokhale passed an interim order banning tourists from taking the trunk road passing through the Jarawa area.
- The Supreme Court therefore, on 5 March 2013 reversed its interim order, allowing the road to be fully re-opened, but with vehicles only being allowed to travel in large convoys four times a day.

Sentinelese

- They are one of the world's last uncontacted peoples.
- The Sentinelese are hunter-gatherers. They likely use bows and arrows to hunt terrestrial wildlife and more rudimentary methods to catch local seafood, such as mud crabs and molluscan shells.
- Some of their practices have not evolved beyond those of the Stone Age; they are not known to engage in agriculture. It is unclear whether they have any knowledge of making fire though investigations have shown they use fire.

- **Baiga Tribe**

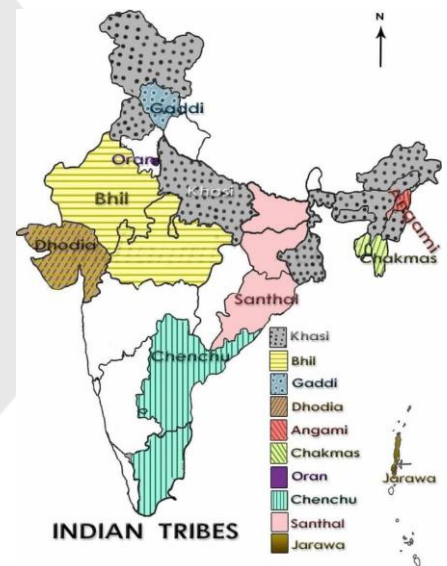
- The Baiga is one of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).
- They mainly live in **Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Odisha, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh**.
- Traditionally, the Baiga lived a semi-nomadic life and practiced slash and burn cultivation. Now, they are mainly dependent on minor forest produce for their livelihood.
- Bamboo is the primary resource.
- Tattooing is an integral part of Baiga culture, every age and body part has a specific tattoo reserved for the occasion.

- **Munda Tribe (means headmen of village)**

- This tribe is found in **Jharkhand and parts of Chattisgarh, Bihar, Odisha, and West Bengal**.
- Their life is simple and basic. They speak the Mundari language.
- They follow the Sarna religion owing allegiance to a God called Singbonga which means the Sun God.
- Their language is Killi and Nupur dance is the main entertainment.
- The Munda tribes celebrate the Mage, Karam, Sarhaul, and Phagu festivals.

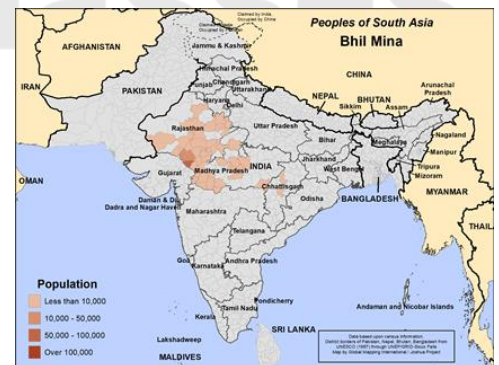
- **Santhal Tribes**

- The Santhal tribes are a major tribe of West Bengal. They are also seen in parts of Bihar, Odisha, and Assam and are the largest tribe in Jharkhand.
- First tribe to offer resistance to British during 1855 Santhal rebellion which resulted in the creation of separate Santhal Paragans district.
- They depend on agriculture and livestock for their living and are great hunters.
- They have no temples of their own. They even do not worship any idols. Santhals follow the **Sarna religion**.
- In addition to traditional festivals like Karam and Sahrai, Santhali dance and music is a major attraction.



- **Meenas**

- Distribution: Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh
- Meenas claim a mythological descent from the Matsya avatar, or fish incarnation, of Vishnu.
- They also claim to be descendants of the people of the Matsya Kingdom.
- In Rajasthan, the Meena caste members oppose the entry of Gurjars into Scheduled Tribe fold, fearing that their own share of Scheduled Tribe reservation benefits will be eroded.



• Bodo Tribe

- The Bodo tribe is found in Assam and parts of West Bengal and Nagaland.
- They are believed to be the early indigenous settlers of Assam.
- They belong to Indo-Mongoloid family. They speak a Tibetan-Burmese language, the Bodo.
- The weaving of handloom products is an intrinsic part of their culture.
- They celebrate the Baishagu festival in spring, dedicated to Lord Shiva, Hapsa hatarani, Domashi.



The Economist

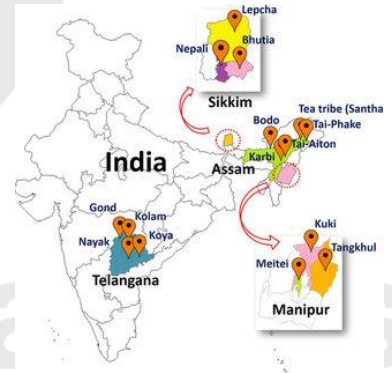
• Angami Tribe

- The Angami Nagas is one of the major tribes found in the district of **Kohima in Nagaland**.
- The tribe is best known for the famed Hornbill Festival which attracts crowds from various parts of the world.
- Hornbill Festival – first started in the **year 2000** is celebrated in the month of December every year. It starts on December 1, a day that is celebrated as Nagaland Statehood Day, and it goes on for ten days, ending on December 10.
- They speak different dialects like Gnamei, Ngami, Tsoghami.



• Bhutia Tribe

- The Bhutias are mainly found in Sikkim and parts of West Bengal and Tripura.
- They are of Tibetan ancestry and speak Lhopo or Sikkimese language.
- They are known for their art and cuisine. The steamed meat dumplings called momos are their staple food.
- Losar and Loosong are the festivals celebrated.



• Bru or Reang Tribe

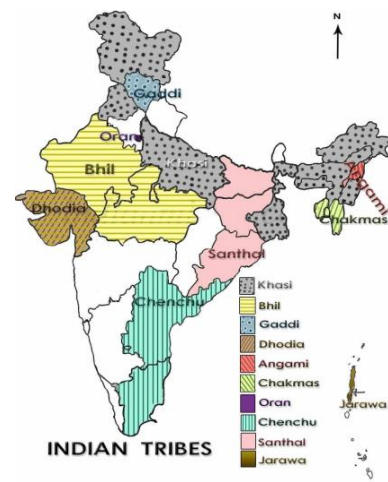
- Bru or Reang is a community indigenous to Northeast India, living mostly in Tripura, Mizoram, and Assam. Reangs belongs to Indo-Mongoloid racial stock.
- Reangs are the second largest tribal community of Tripura. In Tripura, they are recognized as a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group.
- In 1997, following ethnic clashes, nearly 37,000 Brus fled Mamit, Kolasib, and Lunglei districts of Mizoram and were accommodated in relief camps in Tripura.
- Since then, 5,000 have returned to Mizoram in eight phases of repatriation, while 32,000 still live in six relief camps in North Tripura.
- In June 2018, community leaders from the Bru camps signed an agreement with the Centre and the two-state governments, providing for repatriation in Mizoram. But most camp residents rejected the terms of the agreement.
- The camp residents said that the agreement didn't guarantee their safety in Mizoram.



For India Loves

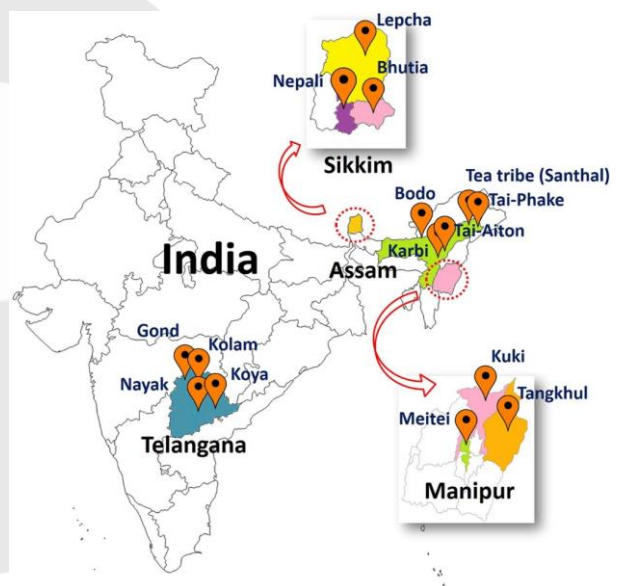
• Chakmas

- Distribution: Mizoram, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh
- The Chakma possess strong genetic affinities to Tibeto-Burman groups in Northeast India and to East Asian and populations.
- They believe they are also part of Buddha's Sakya clan from Himalayan tribes. After many struggles to survive, they gradually migrated to Arakan, and spread their territory to the nearby hills of Chittagong Hill Tracts.
- During the construction of the Kaptai Dam in the 1960s, many Chakma settlements were submerged due to the creation of the artificial Kaptai Lake.
- In the mid-1970s, the eruption of the Chittagong Hill Tracts conflict caused some Chakma people to become refugees in NEFA (present Arunachal Pradesh). The conflict ended in 1997 with the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord.
- Language is Chakma part of Indo-Aryan group.



• Lepcha Tribe

- Lepcha is a tribe of the Himalayan range lives at the North-East corner of India. They largely reside at Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Bhutan, Sikkim, and Darjeeling.
- Lepchas are Mongoloid tribe.
- Their language is an admixture of Nepalese and Sikkims languages, which is very familiar with the Indo-Chinese language. They themselves call "Rong".
- Lepchas live on rearing a large number of cattle and milch cows besides cultivation of Agricultural and Horticultural crops.



• Khasi Tribe

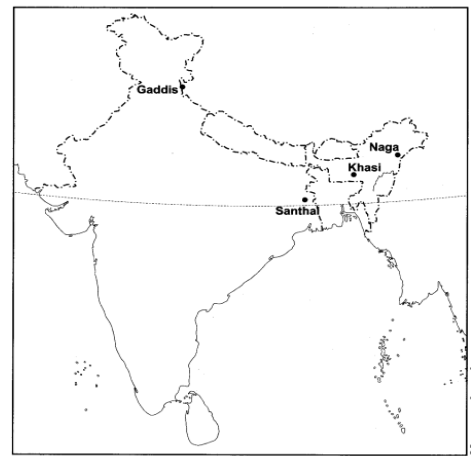
- This tribe is mainly spotted on the **Khasi Hills of Meghalaya** and in parts of Assam, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, and West Bengal.
- Most of the Khasis follow Christianity.
- They speak Khasi – an Austro- Asiatic language
- Their major festival, the Nongkrem festival is five days

• Garo Tribe

- Garo tribes are mainly found in the hills of Meghalaya and parts of Assam, Nagaland, and West Bengal.
- Garo architecture is quite unique. Nokmong, Nokpante, Jamadaal and Jamsireng are some of them.

• Gaddis Tribe

- Distribution: Himachal Pradesh
- They mainly dwell around the Dhauladhar mountain range, Chamba, Bharmaur, and the areas near to Dharamshala
- Most of them are Hindus and a few Muslims.
- They speak the Gaddi Language but for writing, they use Takri and Hindi.
- Festivals: Shivarathri, Jatra.



• Warli Tribe

- The tribe is found in the Maharashtra-Gujarat border and surrounding areas.
- This tribe is well known for the Warli Art, where a mixture of cow dung and earth, rice paste, bamboo stick, red ochre are used to create art, paintings, and murals.
- They conduct the Tarpa dance during the harvest season and the Warli Folk Art Dancing People Festival during March of every year.



• Siddis Tribe

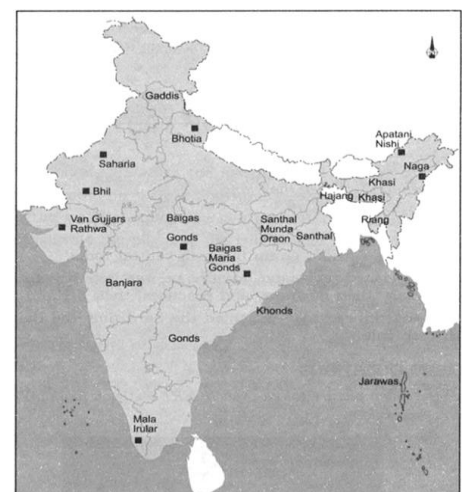
- This tribe of Karnataka is believed to have descended from the Bantu people of Southeast Africa. History says that the people were brought in as slaves by the Portuguese.
- They are found in various parts of Karnataka.
- The majority of them are Christians while others follow Hinduism and Islamism.

• Toda Tribe

- The **Todas are found in parts of the Nilgiris mountain in Tamil Nadu.**
- Their livelihood depends on cattle farming and dairy.
- Toda embroidery work, Pukhoor, is well acclaimed. Their most important festival is Modhweth.

• Khonds/ Dongari Khond

- Distribution: Orissa
- Their native language is Kui, a Dravidian language written with the Oriya script.
- They are nature-worshipping forest dwellers.
- Vedanta Resources, mining company, was set to destroy the forests, wildlife, and way of life of the Dongria Kondh people.
- Their four-year-long protests finally paid off as the government has now banned Vedanta from mining in Niyamgiri Mountain and in their forests.
- Practice shifting cultivation locally called Podu.



State wise Tribes

Gujarat: Barda, Bamcha, Bhil, Charan, Dhodia, Gamta, **Paradhi, Patelia**, Dhanka, Dubla, Talavia, Halpati, Kokna, Naikda, Patelia, Rathawa, Siddi.

Himachal Pradesh: **Gaddis, Gujjars, Khas, Lamba**, Lahaulas, Pangwala, Swangla, Beta, Beda Bhot, Bodh.

Arunachal Pradesh: Apatanis, **Abor, Dafla**, Galong, Momba, Sherdukpen, Singpho, Nyishi, **Mishmi, Idu**, Taroan, Tagin, Adi, Monpa, Wancho

Jharkhand: Birhors, **Bhumij, Gonds**, Kharia, Mundas, Santhals, Savar, Bedia, Ho, Kharwar, Lohra, Mahli, Parhaiya, Santal, Kol, Banjar.

Kerala: Adiyen, Arandan, Eravallan, Kurumbas, Malai arayan, Moplahs, **Uralis, Irular**, Kanikaran, Kattunayakan, Kurichchan, Muthuvan.

Uttarakhand: **Bhotias, Buksa, Jannsari, Khas, Raji, Tharu.**

Uttar Pradesh: **Bhotia, Buksa, Jaunsari, Kol**, Raji, Tharu, Gond, Kharwar, Saharya, Parahiya, **Baiga**, Agariya, Chero

Madhya Pradesh: **Baigas, Bhils, Bharia**, Birhors, Gonds, Katkari, kharia, Khond, Kol, Murias, Korku, Mawasi, **Pardhan, Sahariya**,

Maharashtra: Bhaina, Bhunjia, Dhodia, Katkari, Khond, Rathawa, **Warlis**, Dhanka, Halba, Kathodi, Kokna, Koli Mahadev, **Pardhi**, Thakur,

Manipur: Naga, **Kuki, Meitei**, Aimol, Angami, Chiru, Maram, Monsang, Paite, Purum, Thadou, Anal, Mao, Tangkhul, Thadou, Poumai Naga.

Meghalaya: **Chakma, Garos**, Hajong, Jaintias Khasis, Lakher, Pawai, Raba, Mikir.

Mizoram: **Chakma, Dimasa, Khasi, Kuki**, Lakher, Pawi, Raba, Synteng, **Lushai**

Nagaland: **Angami**, Garo, Kachari, Kuki, Mikir, **Nagas**, Sema, Ao, Chakhesang, Konyak, Lotha, Phom, Rengma, **Sangtam**,

Odisha: Gadaba, Ghara, Kharia, Khond, Matya, Oraons, Rajuar, **Santhals**, Bathudi, Bathuri, Bhottada, **Bhumij**, Gond, Juang, Kisan, Kolha, Kora, Khayara, Koya, Munda, Paroja, Saora, Shabar, Lodha.

Rajasthan: Bhils, Damaria, Dhanka, **Meenas(Minas), Patelia**, Sahariya, Naikda, Nayaka, Kathodi.

Sikkim: **Bhutia, Khas, Lepchas**, Limboo, Tamang

Tamil Nadu: Adiyen, Aranadan, Eravallan, Irular, Kadar, Kanikar, **Kotas, Todas**, Kurumans, Malayali,

Telangana: **Chenchus.**

Tripura: Bhil, Bhutia, Chaimal, Chakma, Halam, Khasia, Lushai, Mizel, Namte, Mag, Munda, Rieng,

Consider the following statements about Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in India: (2019)

1. PVTGs reside in 18 States and one Union Territory.
2. A stagnant or declining population is one of the criteria for determining PVTG status.
3. There are 95 PVTGs officially notified in the country so far.
4. Irular and Konda Reddi tribes are included in the list of PVTGs.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1, 2 and 3
- b) 2, 3 and 4
- c) 1, 2 and 4
- d) 1, 3 and 4

Ans: C



Parcham Classes